

What Manner of Man Is This? - 01/19/20

He heals the demon possessed man

TEXT – Mar 5:1-20 *And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. 2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit . . .*

INTRO- This event is found in all three synoptic gospels. Nearly 20 centuries later, we still ask the same question, “What manner of man is this?” The life, death and history of Jesus of Nazareth is well documented in history. No other person in history has been so established as Jesus Christ.

This series of messages are entitled “What manner of man is this.”

HE IS NO ORDINARY MAN!

Who is Jesus to you!

Jesus and the disciples arrive at the other side of the Sea and meet a wild man possessed by a demon. Jesus shows the disciples what kind of man he is. Here is what the demoniac of Gadara was like.

I. This man lived with the dead in the tombs

The disciples have just experienced this mighty miracle of Jesus calming the storm and they continue on to the other side towards this mountainous region of caves, rocks and tombs where only dead people are buried where there's no life. As they come close to that shore they see, running down that mountain, like a ravening beast, a wild animal, this man who is naked, a man who has hair down his back, a man whose eyes are like fire, popping out of his head, a man who is foaming at the mouth, a man who is shouting, who is covered in bruises and cuts, who seems to be reeling in pain and agony and torment.

This is the state in which Jesus finds this man. Behind all the ugliness is a human soul for which He died.

II. He broke loose from their chains

He broke loose from their chains in verses 3 and 4. What happened was - like a lunatic in any society they tried to chain him up, they tried to suppress him. They went up to the mountain and they tried to put clothes on him, they tried to tie him down and put a straitjacket on him, they tried to do everything to stop him - but because it was a supernatural power that was within him, he broke free from it all. No matter what plan they tried, no matter how many men they brought up to that mountain to take hold of him, to put him in ropes and irons, he broke free from it all. This man couldn't be tamed. This man was wild. 'No man could tame him'.

- **He had a reputation.** Everybody knew what he was like - he was

living with the dead people! It says in verse 2 that he came out of the tombs. He was living in a graveyard.

This man was not physically dead - but he was dead on the inside. He was dead within, he was dead spiritually, emotionally - every conceivable death within, this man had it.

- **No man can help you, no man can save you, no man can bring you peace and forgiveness and eternal life and salvation!**

A doctor might help your body,

A psychiatrist might help your mind,

A man cannot help your soul!

It doesn't matter what he dresses like, and it doesn't matter that he prays to God for you, and it doesn't matter what he does for you, it doesn't matter who he is, or the letters he has before or after his name, or what College he has gone to, or what religion he is, or what a good man he is - it doesn't matter, because Jesus says that no man could help this man.

III. He loathed himself.

Do you hate yourself? He lived with the dead, he broke loose from their chains, he loathed himself. And *always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones!* He didn't want to do it, but he was driven to do it. He loathed himself. Every time you look in a mirror, every time you hear someone talking about you, you think it's bad. You loathe yourself physically, emotionally, psychologically - you can only think bad and worse about yourself. You may even feel suicidal. You wish you could just end it all - the world would be better without you, your family wouldn't care, no-one loves you! No one would miss you.

Perhaps you're like Job. Job said in chapter 3 of his book and verse 3: 'Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived'.

IV. He lived for Christ.

It says in verse 9 that he did this because he had a legion of demons. Verse 9 says: *'And Jesus asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many'* - this evil demon, was speaking from within him, answering the Lord Jesus Christ. *'We are legion. We are many'*. What is it? Is it drugs? Is it promiscuity? Is it pornography? Is it alcoholism? What is it? Is it money? Is that the thing that drives you? Is it your career? Your education? Your religion? Your family? Your children? What is it that drives you, the demons within that control you, and take over you and possess you? This man had a legion.

This man had a legion, perhaps 6000 or more demons living within him. Among the Romans a "legion" was primarily a chosen body of soldiers divided into ten cohorts, and numbering from 4,200 to 6,000 men.

Verse 6: *'But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him'*. Christ wanted to come and speak to him, He wanted to touch him.

- **He knew who He was.** I want you, tonight, to see who He was. It says in **verse 7** who He was. This man, or the demons within him, *'cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not'*.

He was God the Son, Emmanuel, God with us. He had come to dwell as God, the Living God, among men. He was Jehovah, the great God, for He said that **'before Abraham was I Am'** - and that was the name of God **'I Am'**. He is, He was, and He always will be - He is eternal.

He was the wisdom of God, He was the power of God, He was the Anointed, He was the Chosen of God, the Prophet of God, He was the Shepherd of God. He was the way, He was the truth, He was the life. He was the open door to get into heaven, He was the Good Shepherd, He was the Great Shepherd, He was the Chief Shepherd standing before him. He was the bread of life to the hungry, He was the lily of the valley to the wilderness, He was the bright and morning star to the darkened sky of this man's life. He was the sun of righteousness, the dawning of that man's night. He was a strong tower, a strong tower to run into. He was the strength to the poor, the strength to the needy, the refuge and shelter in the storm, the covert from the tempest, the harbor of His people. He was the horn of salvation.

People had been trying it for years...to try and tame this man - but Jesus just did it like that!

He lifted up his eyes, and there he saw love in a way that he never saw it in his life.

The demons knew who He was - in **James 2:19** it says that the demons believe. The demons believe it tonight, do you?

Have you let Him take control and take up His residence within your life?

- **He knew what He did** Verses 11 to 13

He told them to get out! People had been trying it for years,

He cast them into the swine, 2000 of them, like an avalanche, go down that hillside and drown themselves in the lake.

Do you see the power of Christ? Do you see that what Christ did for the demoniac, what Christ did in this man's life, He can do it in your life?

- **What He was told** verse 16 and 17.

'And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine', look at verse 17, 'And they began

to pray', they asked Him, they pleaded with Jesus', to depart out of their coasts'. They did they not see what Christ did for this man?'

CONCL –

He lived with the dead.

He loosed their chains

He loathed, he hated himself –

He lived for Christ.

Mar 5:15 *And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.*

He was normal

Mar 5:19-20 *Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, **Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.** 20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.*